

### Amendments to the Claims

Kindly amend claims 1-20 as set forth below. All pending claims are reproduced below, with changes in the amended claims shown by underlining (for added matter) and strikethrough/double brackets (for deleted matter).

1. (Currently Amended) A method of managing requests in a ~~communications~~ computer environment, said method comprising:

providing a computer environment with functionality for:

receiving by a request manager of the computer environment a first request from a requester, the first request associated with meta data, said meta data corresponding to data maintained separately from the meta data by a data object manager of a storage subsystem of the computer environment; [[and]]

responsive to receipt of the first request at the request manager, automatically informing, by the request manager, another the data object manager of an anticipated, second request to be subsequently received by the another data object manager from the requester to enable the another data object manager to prepare for the anticipated, second request, wherein the anticipated, second request to be received by the data object manager is at least partially ascertainable from meta data associated with the first request received by the request manager; and

wherein the data object manager prepares for the anticipated, second request by adjusting utilization of a cache of the storage subsystem of the computer environment based on information derived from the meta data associated with the first request by the request manager before the anticipated, second request is received at the data object manager from the requester.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, ~~further comprising preparing by the another~~ wherein the data object manager prepares for the anticipated, second request, said preparing responsive to said informing by at least one of pre-fetching into the cache data required by the anticipated, second request, thereby reducing data access latency, or moving data from the cache to a disk of the storage subsystem, thereby facilitating receipt of data at the cache.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[2]]~~ 1, wherein said preparing comprises managing contents of a cache in a data storage subsystem, wherein the data object manager prepares for the anticipated, second request by noting that data associated with the anticipated, second request is not to be cached.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[2]]~~ 1, wherein ~~said preparing comprises managing a user's or a client computer's~~ the data object manager prepares for the anticipated, second request by managing the requester's access to the data.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[2]]~~ 1, further comprising:

    sending, by the request manager, a reply to ~~a communications unit~~ the requester in response to the first request substantially simultaneously with said informing; and

thereafter receiving, by the ~~another~~ data object manager, the ~~anticipated second request from the requester,~~ wherein said preparing by the data object manager begins before the receiving by the ~~another~~ data object manager.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[3]]~~ 2, wherein said ~~managing contents~~ pre-fetching comprises pre-fetching one or more data blocks from one or more storage media of the data storage subsystem whereby the data blocks are stored in the cache, the data blocks comprising at least some of the data.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[3]]~~ 1, wherein said ~~managing contents~~ the preparing by the data object manager comprises releasing storage locations of the cache, whereby the storage locations become available for storing other data, ~~the storage locations storing data blocks comprising at least some of the data.~~

8. (Currently Amended) A request management system ~~for a communications environment, said system~~ comprising:

a computer environment;

means for receiving by a request manager of the computer environment a first request from a requester, the first request associated with meta data, said meta data corresponding to data maintained separately from the meta data by a data object manager of a storage subsystem of the computer environment; [[and]]

means, responsive to receipt of the first request at the request manager, for automatically informing, by the request manager, another the data object manager of an anticipated, second request to be subsequently received by the another data object manager from the requester to enable the another data object manager to prepare for the anticipated second request, wherein the anticipated, second request to be received by the data object manager is at least partially ascertainable from meta data associated with the first request received by the request manager; and

wherein the data object manager prepares for the anticipated, second request by adjusting utilization of a cache of the computer environment based on information derived from the meta data associated with first request by the request manager before the anticipated, second request is received at the data object manager from the requester.

9. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 8, ~~further comprising means for preparing by the another~~ wherein the data object manager prepares for the anticipated, second request, ~~said means for preparing responsive to said means for informing~~ by at least one of pre-fetching into the cache data required by the anticipated, second request, thereby reducing data access latency, or moving data from the cache to a disk of the storage subsystem, thereby facilitating receipt of data at the cache.

10. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~[[9]]~~ 8, wherein said ~~means for~~ preparing comprises means for managing contents of a cache in a data storage subsystem, wherein the data object manager prepares for the anticipated, second request by noting that data associated with the anticipated, second request is not to be cached.

11. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~[[9]]~~ 8, wherein said ~~means for~~ preparing comprises means for managing a user's or a client computer's wherein the data object manager prepares for the anticipated second request by managing the requester's access to the data.

12. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~[[9]]~~ 8, further comprising:  
  
means for sending, by the request manager, a reply to a ~~communications unit~~ the requester in response to the first request substantially simultaneously with informing the ~~another~~ data object manager of the anticipated, second request to be received; and

means for thereafter receiving, by the ~~another~~ data object manager, the anticipated second request from the requester, wherein said ~~means for~~ preparing by the data object manager begins prepare for the anticipated request before the means for receiving data object manager receives the anticipated, second request.

13. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~[[10]]~~ 9, wherein said ~~means for~~ managing contents pre-fetching comprises means for pre-fetching one or more data blocks from one or more storage media of the data storage subsystem whereby the data blocks are stored in the cache, the data blocks comprising at least some of the data.

14. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~[[10]]~~ 8, wherein said ~~means for~~ managing contents the preparing by the data object manager comprises means for releasing storage locations of the cache, whereby the storage locations become available for storing other data, ~~the storage locations storing data blocks comprising at least some of the data.~~

15. (Currently Amended) At least one program storage device readable by a maehine computer embodying at least one program of instructions executable by the maehine computer to perform when executing on the computer a method of managing requests in a communications computer environment, said method comprising:

receiving by a request manager of the computer environment a first request from a requester, the first request associated with meta data, said meta data corresponding to data maintained separately from the meta data by a data object manager of a storage subsystem of the computer environment; [[and]]

responsive to receipt of the first request at the request manager, automatically informing, by the request manager, ~~another~~ the data object manager of an anticipated, second request to be subsequently received by the another data object manager from the requester to enable the ~~another~~ data object manager to prepare for the anticipated, second request, wherein the anticipated, second request to be received by the data object manager is at least partially ascertainable from meta data associated with the first request received by the request manager; and

wherein the data object manager prepares for the anticipated, second request by adjusting utilization of a cache of the storage subsystem of the computer environment based on information derived from the meta data associated with first request by the request manager before the anticipated, second request is received at the data object manager from the requester.

16. (Currently Amended) The at least one program storage device of claim 15, wherein ~~said method further comprises preparing by the another~~ the data object manager prepares for the anticipated, second request, said preparing responsive to said informing by at least one of pre-fetching into the cache data required by the anticipated, second request, thereby reducing data access latency or moving data from the cache to a disk of the storage subsystem, thereby facilitating receipt of data at the cache.

17. (Currently Amended) The at least one program storage device of claim [[16]] 15, wherein said preparing comprises managing contents of a cache in a data storage subsystem, wherein the data object manager prepares for the anticipated, second request by noting that data associated with the anticipated second request is not to be cached.

18. (Currently Amended) The at least one program storage device of claim [[16]] 15, wherein ~~said preparing comprises managing a user's or a client computer's~~ the data object manager prepares for the anticipated, second request by managing the requester's access to the data.

19. (Currently Amended) The at least one program storage device of claim [[16]] 15, wherein said method further comprises:

sending, by the request manager, a reply to ~~a communications unit~~ the requester in response to the first request substantially simultaneously with said informing; and

thereafter receiving, by the ~~another~~ data object manager, the ~~anticipated~~ second request from the requester, wherein said preparing by the data object manager begins before the receiving by the ~~another~~ data object manager.

20. (Currently Amended) The at least one program storage device of claim [[17]] 15, wherein said ~~managing contents~~ pre-fetching comprises pre-fetching one or more data blocks from one or more storage media of the data storage subsystem whereby the data blocks are stored in the cache, the data blocks comprising at least some of the data.

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